



JCAHPO Names New President

St. Paul, MN - August 26, 2009 – The [Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology \(JCAHPO®\)](http://www.jcahpo.org) is pleased to announce that ophthalmologist William H. Ehlers, MD will serve as the 20th President beginning August 1, 2009. He succeeds Canadian ophthalmologist William F. Astle, MD, FRCS(C), Dipl. ABO, who served as JCAHPO President from 2007-2009.

Dr. Ehlers is one of the nation's leading ophthalmologists and contact lens specialists, with over 20 years of experience in the eye care field. He is a graduate of the University Of Nebraska College Of Medicine and completed his residency at the Medical College of Hampton Roads/VA, Eastern Virginia Medical School of Ophthalmology. Currently, he is an Associate Professor at the University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington, CT. He brings an extraordinary level of service and leadership experience to JCAHPO.

"I am honored to serve in this role and lead JCAHPO in pursuit of its mission," remarked Dr. Ehlers. "I will strive to continue the fine legacy of leadership and commitment of Dr. Astle and his predecessors who made JCAHPO a leading contributor to the field of ophthalmology."

JCAHPO is a non-profit organization that provides certification and educational training to ophthalmic medical personnel worldwide. In addition to several specialty credentials, JCAHPO has three core certification levels: Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA®), Certified Ophthalmic Technician (COT®), and Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologist (COMT®).

Since 1999, Dr. Ehlers has been on the Board of Directors for the Contact Lens Association of Ophthalmologists (CLAO) and is also a Past President. Throughout his career, he has been heavily involved in the advocacy of continuing education and certification for ophthalmic personnel and remains committed to educating and advancing treatment and diagnosis worldwide. Dr. Ehlers has participated in volunteer services through Eye Care America, Glaucoma Screening, and worked with the Congressional Glaucoma Caucus to organize regular screenings in the state of Connecticut. He has contributed greatly to education in ophthalmology by instructing courses and authoring numerous articles and clinical studies.

JCAHPO Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Lynn D. Anderson, PhD welcomes Dr. Ehlers' experience and strong record of commitment to ophthalmic medical personnel. She notes it will be an asset amid ophthalmology's demanding climate.

"The field of eye care is currently facing many challenges and the development of continuing education and certification resources for ophthalmic medical personnel will be important objectives moving forward. We are excited to have Dr. Ehlers' leadership, motivation, and focus as JCAHPO continues the pursuit of its mission," says Anderson.

For more information about JCAHPO, visit www.jcahpo.org or call (800) 284-3937.

JCAHPO is a non-profit organization that has been providing certification and training for eye care excellence since 1969. More than 17,000 ophthalmic assistants, technicians and technologists across the globe are JCAHPO-certified.